Application No.: 09/876235 Docket No.: COTH-P07-701

REMARKS

Applicants thank Examiner Forman for the telephonic interview on June 29, 2006. Claims 63-79 were pending and stand rejected or objected to. Based on the telephonic interview, Applicants have amended claim 63 and canceled claims 78-79. The claim amendments do not introduce any new matter.

Written Description Rejection of Claims 78 and 79

The Office Action rejected claims 78 and 79 for lack of written description. In particular, the Office Action stated that the specification does not provide adequate description of adenine-like and puromycin-like compounds. Applicants respectfully traverse. As acknowledged by Examiner Forman during the telephonic interview, various adenine-like and puromycin-like compounds were well known in the art. The specification also provides ample guidance on determining which of these compound would constitute a "peptide acceptor" as required by the claims. Thus, Applicants maintain that description of these specific compounds is not required to satisfy the written description requirement. Nevertheless, to expedite prosecution, Applicants cancel claims 78 and 79 and reserve the right to pursue subject matter contained in these claims in a separate application.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action rejected claims 63-64, 68-76 and 78-79 as allegedly being anticipated by Gold et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,843,701). In particular, Gold et al. disclose a molecule comprising a nucleic acid portion and a protein covalently bound to the nucleic acid portion through a biotin-avidin linkage. Applicants have amended claim 63 to recite that the peptide acceptor "is a molecule capable of being added to the C-terminus of a growing protein chain by the catalytic activity of the ribosomal peptidyl transferase function." Support for the amendment is found in the specification as filed, e.g., at page 5, lines 23 to 25. In contrast, the biotin-avidin linkage as disclosed by Gold et al. is not a molecule capable of being added to the C-terminus of a growing protein chain by the catalytic activity of the ribosomal peptidyl transferase function. Although the avidin portion is added through translation, attachment of the biotin portion to the mRNA cannot be achieved through the catalytic activity of the ribosomal

peptidyl transferase function. Therefore, Gold et al. do not anticipate claim 63 and its dependent claims. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected claims 63-75 as allegedly being anticipated by Mattheakis et al. (WO 95/11922). In particular, Mattheakis et al. disclose nucleic acid-protein fusion molecules wherein the nucleic acid portion is linked to the protein portion through a tether fragment "comprising a polypeptide sequence which binds to the encoding mRNA molecule serving as the translation template for the synthesis of the nascent antibody, or to a bound DNA primer or cDNA copy of such encoding mRNA, either directly or through binding an intermediate molecule (biotin, digoxigenin, or the like) that is linked directly to the encoding mRNA or cDNA copy thereof." Moreover, Mattheakis et al. state: "The tether segment serves to link the displayed peptide or single-chain antibody of an individual library member to the polynucleotide comprising the sequence information encoding the amino acid sequence of the individual library member's displayed peptide or VH andVL domains." Therefore, the "tether fragmment" is not a molecule capable of being added to the C-terminus of a growing protein chain by the catalytic activity of the ribosomal peptidyl transferase function. Accordingly, Mattheakis et al. do not teach or suggest any peptide acceptors as required by the claims; reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration is respectfully solicited. The Examiner may address any questions raised by this submission to the undersigned at 617-951-7000. Please charge any further fees or credit any overpayments to our Deposit Account No. 18-1945 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw, under order no. COTH-P07-701.

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Respectfully submitted,

By_____

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